



# Memorandum

**TO:** Historic Landmarks Commission

**FROM:** Courtney Damkroger

**SUBJECT:** PDA98-04-028

**DATE:** April 18, 2002

Hassler Farm Ancillary Buildings

---

**APPROVED:**

**DATE:**

---

## **BACKGROUND**

The proposed Planned Development Permit Amendment would allow the demolition of eight existing ancillary farm buildings located within the boundaries of the Ranch at Silver creek development on a 578 gross-acre site. This development was the subject of an EIR in 1993, amended in 1999, which called for the construction of approximately 535 homes, the preservation of the Hassler Barn and dedication of park land to the City of San Jose. The developer of the Ranch at Silver Creek project, William Lyon Homes, entered into a parkland agreement with the City of San José as a part of the project. The developer will give approximately 5 acres to the City under the administration of the Parks Department. Before this land is ceded to the City of San José the agreement requires that William Lyon Homes remove any improvements on the property.

Because the farm buildings were not called out for demolition in the 1993 FEIR, Planning required an Historic Report to evaluate the significance of the buildings. None of the eight structures are listed in the City of San José Historic Resources Inventory. The original John Hassler farmhouse, once located among the remaining structures, was listed on the Inventory but was demolished many years ago. It should be noted that the Hassler Barn is currently undergoing rehabilitation as a part of the larger development.

## **ANALYSIS**

The, "Hassler Farm Ancillary Buildings Historic Structures Report" prepared by Carey & Co. states that the loss of the original Hassler Farmhouse in the 1970's has compromised the integrity of the ancillary farm buildings. None of the remaining buildings appeared eligible as City Landmarks or for the California Register. The House, Water Tank, Outhouse, Tack Room and Dairy Barn did not appear eligible for the Inventory. While the Stable, Milk House and Storage Building appear to be eligible for inclusion in the City of San José Historic Resources Inventory, scoring 36.87, 44.3 and 52.8 respectively. The loss of these three buildings represents a loss of historic resources for the City of San Jose.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The “Hassler Farm Ancillary Buildings Historic Structures Report” provides documentation of each of the eight buildings. The report includes measured drawings, photographs and a written description. Planning staff recommends that in addition to this documentation the Landmarks Commission recommend that the Dairy Barn be carefully salvaged and recycled for use in the repair of the Hassler Barn. In addition staff recommends that a qualified preservation architect be consulted prior to the demolition of the Dairy Barn in order to ensure proper salvage methods. Finally, Planning staff recommends that at least three original copies of the Historic Report be provided to the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement for filing at area archives.

Courtney Damkroger  
Historic Preservation Officer

Attachments

